

REMARKS

The disclosure and drawings are objected to because of a failure to provide a clear reference between the specification and the drawings as to the over-molded components. Reference numerals 11 and 13 have been given to the over-molded components in the specification and these reference numerals have been added to the drawings. Replacement sheets of Figs 1 and 3 are attached. The applicant appreciates the assistance of the examiner in clearing up any ambiguity. This change is believed to address the objection, the reconsideration and withdrawal of which is respectfully requested.

Section 102(b) Rejection

Claims 1-6 stand rejected as being anticipated by Long '574. This ground of rejection is traversed. As stated in the previous Office Action response filed December 18, 2004, the flange 42 of Long '574 is not an over-molded component as described and claimed in the present invention. Robert T. Long, Sr., is the inventor of both the present application and the Long '574 patent and is therefore intimately knowledgeable about both inventions. The flange 42 of Long '574 is similar to the washer 22 of the present invention; it is a separately formed part that is slid onto the longitudinal member and held by a ridge or similar structure and is not an over-molded component. There is no teaching or suggestion in any of the cited prior art of a connector element for concrete cavity walls that includes an over-molded component.

In the Response to Arguments section, the examiner states: "Also, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., one or more over-molded components) are not recited in the rejected claims." Applicant fails to understand this comment since claim 1 as addressed by the examiner clearly recites "one or more over-molded components": "A connector element for production of concrete cavity walls comprising a fiber composite shaft with at least one over-molded component comprising anchorage ends and one or more locating flanges." (Emphasis added.) Thus the claim clearly recites one or more over-molded components, which have anchorage ends and one or more locating flanges, and which are over-molded onto the fiber composite shaft. Claim 1 has been amended to add a comma before and a colon after the first "comprising" to more clearly delineate the body of the claim

from the preamble. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the 102(b) rejection is respectfully requested.

The application has been amended to correct minor informalities, to further distinguish the application over the prior art, and to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention so as to place the application, as a whole, into a prima facie condition for allowance.

Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that its claims 1-7 are in condition for allowance at this time, patentably distinguishing over the cited prior art. Accordingly, reconsideration of the application and passage to allowance are respectfully solicited.

The Examiner is respectfully urged to call the undersigned attorney at (515) 288-2500 to discuss the claims in an effort to reach a mutual agreement with respect to claim limitations in the present application which will be effective to define the patentable subject matter if the present claims are not deemed to be adequate for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kent A. Herink', written over a horizontal line.

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